

MALLEABLE BRASS.—I caused an alloy to be made by melting together sixty parts copper and forty parts zinc, which had the following properties: the colour was between that of brass and tombac, it had a strong metallic lustre, a fine close-grained fracture, and great solidity (density). The alloy is harder than copper, very tough, and is, in a properly managed fire, malleable: so much so, that a key was forged out of a cast rod. It might be advantageous in practice, in place of zinc, to add, in melting, proportionate mixture of brass to the proper proportions of copper. An alloy prepared in this way gave, on analysis, 61.44 copper and 38.55 zinc.—**Dr. L. ELSENER.**

ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.—On the 13th inst. a paper was read by Mr. C. Creeke, entitled a "Systematic Arrangement of Aesthetic Principles, suggestive of an improved Method of Studying Architectural Art." "Our object," said the writer, "is to attempt to reason out and analyse our ideas and perceptions of art, so as to trace them to their origin and source, —to endeavour to ascertain how far such ideas as are practically working in the imagination, and so constituting our notions of art (in other words forming, regulating, and directing our taste), may be grounded upon experiences having the force of universal admissions, and regarded by some as of the nature of instruction; or, secondly, upon such axioms as are inducted from those laws which are alike common to the realisation of the beautiful in nature as in art; or, thirdly, upon such laws as are correlative to the ideas and expressions furnished by nature, and which it is the aim of art to embody." The present paper, therefore, "attempted to give a cartoon or sketch map of the theory and definition of art so as, under a series of axioms, purporting to be the rationale of art, might subsequently be gathered into proportional form, those principles which are the admitted standards of cultivated taste." On the 3rd of January, 1851, a paper will be read by Mr. J. P. Seddon, on "The Relations of Architecture with Painting and Sculpture."

ENTRANCES TO THEATRES.—I was much pleased in perusing a recent number of your publication (Dec. 14th) to see that you had called attention to one of the greatest and most dangerous nuisances which the public have to put up with. I allude to the badly planned (I might almost say wickedly and cruelly planned) entrances to our theatres and other public places of amusement. Often would my family and myself visit the theatres, but the dread of the fearful "infernal machine," through which every individual must pass (to say nothing of the indelicate crushing and squeezing, especially for the ladies, which have to be first endured), before admission can be obtained, prevents us, as no doubt it does thousands of others, from doing so; and therefore I trust the subject will not be allowed to sleep until the managers of every theatre (if not for the comfort of their patrons, for their own interest sake) have remedied the evil in question. Indeed, a licence ought not to be granted to any house where ample provision is omitted to be made, not only for the ordinary ingress and egress, but in case of fire, for the speedy and safe emptying of the house.—**G. E. G.**

CITY CROSSINGS.—With reference to a recent article in your pages on the subject of the City crossings, I would mention one very much worse than either of those to which the writer alludes,—I mean the crossing at the top of Cornhill, where Bishopsgate-street, Cornhill, Leadenhall-street, and Gracechurch-street intersect each other. Holding offices which overlook what may truly be termed that dreadful spot, I am daily not only compelled to witness all kinds of cruelty and to hear language of the coarsest and most profane description, but, what is far worse, accidents of a more or less serious character. My attention was, a few minutes since, attracted by screams intermingled with shouts, and on going to the window I beheld a truck disabled and lying bottom upwards on the pavement, its contents rolling in the kennel. In the middle of the street lay a horse and gig on their sides, eight or ten men falling on the head of the poor animal to keep it down, while its unfortunate owner was being taken into an adjoining house with his arm broken. Now, sir, if this were only a solitary instance I should not have troubled you, but when, as I said before, such things are of almost daily

recurrence, I feel it my duty to endeavour to enlist your sympathies on behalf of the public, and to beg of you to exercise your influence towards the removal of so disgraceful a state of things.—**A. B.**

INTIMIDATING WORKMEN.—On Friday week, at the Manchester Borough Court, a working man was charged with conspiracy, under the Intimidation Act. Messrs. Sharp, Brothers, of the Atlas Works, had reduced the wages of their strikers from 17s. to 16s. per week, and a turn-out amongst the workmen had ensued. Mr. Maude pointed out to the prisoner the reasonableness of the law, which, while it allowed men to work, or to refuse to work, at any price they thought proper, would not suffer one workman to prevent another from working for such wages as he might choose to take. The prisoner was committed for fourteen days.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.—A proprietor and an engine-tender of Lily-lane-mill, Halifax, are to be tried at York, in the spring, for the manslaughter of twelve persons, through one of the boiler explosions lately noticed. The coroner's jury attributed the explosion to the unsafe state of the boiler (on evidence, we believe, of Mr. Fairbairn, of Manchester, and others), and the excessive generation of steam, the former attributable to the proprietor's negligence, and the latter to that of his engine-tender. The jury also deprecated the erection of buildings over boilers, and recommended the adoption of the most suitable safety valves that have been or can be invented. In a point of so great importance we need here make no apology for again referring to an ingenious invention by Mr. Strong, of the steam-printing establishment of Messrs. Cox (Brothers), 75, Great Queen-street, Holborn, by which the boiler itself is actually made to indicate and warn the engineer of its own wants by ringing for water, &c.

GREAT COLLECTION OF MEDALS, COINS, AUTOGRAPHS, AND HISTORICAL RECORDS.—A collector for thirty years, signing himself "G. H. C." care of Mr. Weale, of Holborn, in the advertising columns of the Times, is addressing "the savans of all nations," on the disposal of his "great historical collection," for 15,000*l.*, two-thirds of it in the shape of "an approved estate," if more convenient than cash. The collection is said to contain 70,000 articles, among which are "31,000 Historical Manuscripts and Autograph Letters, dated from 1473 to 1848, Henry VII. to Queen Victoria, Louis XI. to Prince Louis Napoleon, President Washington, U.S., to President Polk; also the kings, queens, princes, rulers, and eminent persons of twenty other nations, arranged alphabetically and illustrated with their portraits, in more than 100 folio volumes and sections, many of the Commonwealth of England, the Revolution of 1688, the Republic, the Consulate, and the Empire of France, the French and other Revolutions of 1848!" The names of a great number of men of science, art, and literature, appear in his list of autographic papers, &c.

CONTRACTORS' ACCOUNTS: HARD WORK FOR A JURY.—In a cause which lately came on in the Court of Common Pleas, Mr. Rolt, as contractor for harbour works at Portsmouth, pursued the harbour company for a balance due, with extras, including one of four instalments of the sum of 10,593*l.*, the original amount of the contract-estimate. On presentation of the bill of particulars, it appeared that the jury would have to adjudicate on upwards of 20,000 items. The Lord Chief Justice's patience revolted at the bare contemplation of the task. His lordship recommended arbitration, as it was a physical and moral impossibility for any jury of twelve men to go through with such a case. The plaintiff insisted on going on, and the judge resignedly thanked his stars he "could only sit on it till Tuesday next, which was one consolation. It became so palpable at length, however, that the judge was right, that an arbitration was at last agreed to.

COALITION OF GAS COMPANIES.—The London, Equitable, and Chartered gas companies are now seeking to obtain an Act of Parliament for the amalgamation of their interests, and the parishioners of St. James's, Westminster, have resolved to support the Western (Cannel Coal) Gas Company, and to watch the progress of the Amalgamation Bill

in Parliament. We trust that very stringent clauses for the public behoof will be inserted in that Bill, if the Parliament decide on allowing it to pass. The ostensible purpose of the companies is a good one, whatever their real object may be, viz., to enable them, by economical arrangements, to meet the public demand for reductions in price. Such an amalgamation, however, of companies who have already incurred so much of the expense of separate establishments, is not now needed merely for a purpose which will yield its own return in increased profits and prosperity.

LENGTH OF METROPOLITAN GAS MAINS.—Some correspondents, we think, lately asked us the estimated length of the gas mains in the metropolis. We find we have not yet answered the question. We may now state, therefore, that it is estimated that there are upwards of one thousand five hundred miles of mains ramifying throughout the streets of London. We're inclined, however, to think that even this is too low an estimate.

LECTURE ON FRENCH ART.—At the People's College, Sheffield, Mr. Young Mitchell, of the local School of Design, lately lectured "On French Art, and the facilities for its prosecution in France." The lecturer said that the superiority of Paris, Lyons, and other towns of France in the arts was owing to assiduous study on the part of the operatives, and the liberal support afforded by the Government. The only weapons with which to combat them are schools of design. In order that they may effect the objects contemplated, let all support them. "Remember," he added, "while I have praised this encouragement given to French art, I do not praise French art itself: pretty it is, but corrupt in taste, melodramatic in character, and wanting in all those qualities which constitute high art."

ELECTION OF SURVEYOR BY SWANSEA BOARD OF HEALTH.—This election took place on Tuesday, the 17th inst. There were upwards of one hundred candidates, which number was reduced to seven, and eventually to three, previous to votes being recorded. The selected parties were Mr. Jones, of Swansea; Mr. Gant, late of the Metropolitan Sewers Commission; and Mr. J. C. Reynolds, also an officer of that board. The council then proceeded to outvote one of these gentlemen, when the final contest was found to be between Messrs. Gant and Reynolds, and ended in Mr. Gant being elected.

THE CASLAND ESTATE AND VICTORIA PARK.—A very good plan, by Mr. Wales, of the north-eastern portion of the metropolis, prepared to show the contemplated improvements in the Casland estate, Victoria Park, &c., has just been published. The Victoria Park is a fine extent of land, about 260 acres, planted and turfed. Building operations in this district have been sadly impeded, we understand, by the tardiness of the Commissioners of Woods in reference to approaches. Three times they have given Parliamentary notices for a Bill, and yet have done nothing. They have built a handsome lodge, bridge, &c., &c., but the public cannot find their way to them.

MR. RITCHIE, SCULPTOR.—Another British artist has died in Rome, after a very brief illness.—Mr. Ritchie, a sculptor from Edinburgh, who had arrived in Rome during the month of September. His death is attributable to an excursion he made a few weeks ago with some friends to Ostia, where, ignorant of the effects of the climate, and of the precautions necessary to be taken in it, he caught the malarial fever, and expired after his return to Rome.

BOARD OF HEALTH, TOTTENHAM.—With reference to your paragraph last week, the "three compulsory rates," making 10*d.*, do not include, as stated (?) the "water-rate;" nor is that rate considered a compulsory rate. Few houses in the district, it is considered, I believe, will exceed 21*s.* or 25*s.* per annum for water.—11.

TENDERS

For building Saint Peter's National School, with residence attached, for Master and Mistress, Saint Peter-street, Bethnal-green. Mr. Mason, architect.

Holland	£2,197	0	0
Joseph Wilson	2,159	0	0
Locke and Newham	2,150	0	0
Pritchard and Son	1,997	0	0
Asby and Harner	1,936	0	0
B. and E. Carris	1,899	0	0
Piper	1,863	0	0
Wm. Hill, accepted	1,948	0	0